**France (1781-1789)**

**Account to the King from *Compte rendu au Roi* (Jacques Necker, Geneva, Duvillard, 1781, pl-3).**

Having devoted all my time and my strength in the service of YOUR MAJESTY since you appointed me to this position, it is important for me to give you some public explanations concerning the success of my works and the actual state of the Finances.

I would have renounced to the satisfaction of ... explaining my behavior, if I had not thought that by doing so, all this [information] could have been very useful to YOUR MAJESTY's affairs. Such an institution, if it became permanent, would be the source of the most important advantages because the obligation to publicly show his administration would influence a Finance Minister from the first steps in his career. Darkness and obscurity favor nonchalance. ... This report would also allow each of the people—who are part of YOUR MAJESTY's Councils—to study and follow the situation of the Finances. ... Such an institution could have the greatest influence on public confidence.

In fact, if one fixes his attention on the huge credit England enjoys, and which constitutes their main strength in war, it would be impossible to attribute it entirely to the nature of its Government. Because whatever the authority of the French Monarch is, his interests will always depend on fidelity and justice...

Another reason for the great credit of England is the public notoriety to which the state of Finances is submitted. Each year this state is presented to the Parliament, then it is printed. And all the lenders who regularly know the proportion that is maintained between incomes and expenses are not troubled by suspicions and fanciful fears, which are always part of darkness.

In France, the state of Finances has always been a mystery. If sometimes somebody talked about it, it was only in the preambles of Edicts, and always when money had to be borrowed. But these words, too often the same to be true, have necessarily lost their authority, and men of experience only believe in it because of the moral nature of the Finance Minister. It is important to found confidence on more solid bases....

1. Identify from the extract **two** reasons for a public report on the state of the French finances.

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2 Marks

1. Identify from the extract **two** ways in which the state of the English finances differ from the state of the French finances

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2 Marks

1. Using your knowledge, explain the effect of the *Compte rendu au Roi.*

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6 Marks

1. Explain the extent to which this extract provides an adequate explanation of the development of revolutionary sentiment in France before 1789. In your response refer to different views of the Revolution.

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10 Marks